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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Taira Hanaoka, et al.

Examiner: Jeffrey D. Carlson

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Dated: November 14, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 10-171757, published June 26, 1998;
2. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 9-204389, published August 5, 1997;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on November 14, 2003.

Dated: November 14, 2003


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3. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 9-305514, published November 28, 1997; and
4. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 10-289250, published October 27, 1998.

The references were cited in an Official Action dated August 19, 2003 received from the Japanese Patent Office. Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with an English translation of the Examiner's comments regarding the references from the Official Action. The relevance of the references are described in the Official Action.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of portions of an official action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1) and (e)(1), a statement is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted



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